

Calais Roads Advisory Committee Meeting
Calais Town Clerk's Office
February 13, 2012

Present: Mo Cerutti, Greg Pelchuk, Doug Lilley, Tim Fillbach, JC Myers, Cathy Kashanski, Alfred Larrabee (guest for about 40 minutes)

1) We reviewed the minutes of the January 30 meeting and made several changes and an addition. The addition was to put our charge as agreed to at the meeting into the minutes. There was also several small word changes in item #4 – the summary of the 3 aspects of our charge. Greg moved that we accept the minutes as amended, Doug seconded, all approved.

2) We started to review our charge to determine how to best proceed. The discussion centered on how East Montpelier keeps a record of the maintenance they do on their roads. It is a simple ledger system where the road foreman records what materials he brings where on what dates. Greg had some work order forms that he uses to track maintenance on his equipment – another idea for tracking work done on our road equipment that isn't time consuming or complex but provides good information.

3) Alfred Larrabee, Road Foreman, arrived as our guest. We asked him what he sees as issues and what he wants to do with respect to town roads. The bulleted list below are the topics that he brought up.

- * review our standards and bring them back to life – for example, people plowing snow from driveways into the town roads
- * wants removal of trees whose limbs hang over the road
- * also wants “brush” removal from the roadsides – little trees that are missed grow into bigger trees
- * gravel – getting it on the road
- * the road crew focuses repair work on the areas that they remember from mud season being a problem
- * last summer was unusual – Alfred doesn't want that repeated – two huge storms and the crew was shortstaffed at the same time
- * three miles per year of road are re-surfaced
- * doesn't yet have a log of what happens where – a “good idea”
- * last year the road crew chose the Worcester Road and Collar Hill for the re-surfacing work because they knew from grading that it needed the re-surfacing work
- * the guys are out grading for much of the summer
- * Alfred is on the mailing list for the Better Backroads Program and gets notices of courses
- * there is a whole new crew now – all willing to learn
- * working with us (representing diverse views here) might help Alfred because there were so many comments and complaints last year which was a year with unusual and difficult circumstances – a hard year for him
- * Alfred is willing to come to other meetings if we want him and also will give us comments and information as he thinks of things

4) After Alfred left, we returned to our charge (the four items as modified at our last meeting). We talked about producing a piece or document that deals with people's expectations of town roads (the realities of living on gravel roads and in rural areas). We talked about Greg and JC putting together how to document maintenance that is done and also maintenance best practices (but then this broadened to all of us – see below).

JC moved that we each take on one of the charges for the next meeting and Cathy seconded. After discussion some more, JC amended the motion to be that we all take on one charge and hammer out our recommendations one charge at a time. Cathy seconded the amended motion. The motion passed and we decided to take on charge #3: maintenance practices evaluation and recommendations. This includes record-keeping for maintenance as well as the maintenance practices themselves. We are all to put together our thoughts on this charge for the next meeting.

5) Mo recommended that we look at the VLCT document that Denise sent us a link to – he says it is very good.

- 6) We want to invite Don Singleton to our next meeting.
- 7) Next meeting is **February 27, 6 – 7:30** at the Town Clerks office.
- 8) Doug moved that we adjourn, Tim seconded. All in favor.

Minutes by Cathy Kashanski.